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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6421

BILL NUMBER: SB 406

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 17, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Relationship Education; Dating Violence Policies.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Rogers

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires school corporations and nonpublic schools to: (1) provide age-appropriate education concerning healthy relationships to students in kindergarten through Grade 12; (2) develop a dating violence response policy; and (3) provide training to staff concerning healthy relationship education and dating violence response policies.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Department of Education (DOE) would have to develop guidelines on the characteristics of healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships, the warning signs of dating violence, the methods of increasing appropriate intervention by individuals who become aware of an incident of dating violence, and parental education and outreach. Additionally, in collaboration with appropriate advocacy groups, the Department has to develop model healthy relationship educational materials and a model for dating violence response policies and reporting, and make them available to public and nonpublic schools by July 1, 2011. The State Board of Education would have to adopt rules to assist teachers in implementing the guidelines and policies on healthy relationships developed by the DOE.

The bill's requirements represent an additional workload [and/or expenditure] on the agency outside of the agency's routine administrative functions, and existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under this bill, before July 1, 2012, each school (public and nonpublic) shall implement the healthy relationship curriculum in kindergarten through Grade 12, and publish a specific policy to address incidents of dating violence involving students. Schools would also have to designate an individual to facilitate prevention education and to act as a liaison for community outreach. Schools shall verify compliance with the requirements of this bill with the DOE.

The bill directs all schools to provide healthy relationship training to all administrators, teachers, nurses, coaches, and mental health staff, and to other staff at the administrator's discretion or on a volunteer basis. This training would also be provided annually to newly hired employees. Each school would also have to inform parents of its dating violence response policy and provide a copy of the policy if requested.

The immediate impact would be the cost of training materials for students and staff. Training for staff could be accomplished during teacher in-service days. School health education curriculums may have to be modified to include instruction on relationships, but this can be carried out within the existing level of school resources. However, either the school or students would have to bear the cost of curriculum materials.

Background Information: According to data from Clarian Health, 11.6% of Indiana high school youth reported being hit or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend; approximately 13.2% of females and 3.2% of males reported being physically forced into sexual relations.

Indianapolis was one of ten cities nationwide to receive a four-year grant of up to \$1M on behalf of an initiative to prevent intimate partner violence. The program is currently being implemented at Westland Middle School and is expected to be implemented in Eastbrook Middle School in 2010. It targets students 11 to 14 years old but can also be extended to engage older teens. A school official at Eastbrook Middle School indicated that the training requirements for school teachers and administrators were minimal. The cost of the training material per student is approximately \$215.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also developed a program on dating relationships and has published a community action kit that discusses the program and has information on other resources. It also publishes several DVD/CD Combo packages on different aspects of dating violence. The cost for each package ranges from \$15 to \$55.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DOE; State Board of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Public and Nonpublic Schools.

Information Sources: Start Strong: <http://www.startstrongteens.org>; *Safe Dates: An Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum*: <http://www.hazelden.org>; Ms Kelly Bremer, Program Coordinator, Health Promotions, Clarian Health, 317-962-5604; Mr Thomas A. Oestreich, Assistant Principal, Eastwood Middle School, 317-259-5401; *Assessing the Long-Term Effects of the Safe Dates Program and a Booster in Preventing and Reducing Adolescent Dating Violence Victimization and Perpetration*, Foshee et al, American Journal of Public Health, April 2004, Vol 94, No.4; Choose Respect Initiative: <http://www.chooserespect.org>.

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